SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it within the competence of the department to ask persons to deposit their money in particular banks against their own discretion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is only an administrative directive."

P.C.C. Societies, Malabar

* 1147 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the amount so far collected by the Government ' as interest ' from Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Limited, Malabar, and the amount, if any, paid to such societies ' as interest ' on claims made on the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The amount of interest collected from the Producers'*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar district is Rs. 21,94,550. No interest was, paid to the societies by the Government on the claims of the societies, as it is not the practice to do so in Civil Supplies transactions."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has not many of the societies preferred complaints to the Government that the so-called interest collected were not strictly in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Government? If so, may I know, whether the Government have looked into them? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, wherever complaints have been preferred, they have been examined and the Government have taken decisions and informed the societies also of their decisions. I may tell the hon. Member that interest is charged only for the monies not paid in advance as the cost of the grains and up to the period of three months only."

9-20 a.m. SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Many of the P.C.C. Societies in Malabar were compelled to take enormous stocks from the Government godowns without regard to the need of the societies. In view of this compulsory forcing of stocks on them will the Government see that interest is not collected on the amounts due to the Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know whether these societies were compelled to take the stocks. The Co-operative Societies are there for the purpose of taking over stocks and selling them to the people. Therefore, the question of remitting interest due for the moneys not paid for the last three months, does not arise."

Appointment of District Munsifs

* 1148 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any recruitment of District Munsifs recently; and

(*b*) if so, how many of them were selected by the Madras Public Service Commission and how many of them were from the ranks of Assistant Public Prosecutors?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir; in September 1954.

" (*b*) 50 (fifty) candidates were selected by the Madras Public Service Commission, twenty-three by transfer and twenty-seven by direct recruitment. Of the twenty-three transferee recruits, three are from the ranks of Assistant Public Prosecutors.

" I have already answered this question on many occasions."

Rural dispensary for Panga amsam

* 1149 *Q.*—SRI K. KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to open a rural dispensary in Panga amsam of Mankada firka, South Malabar?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir."

SRI K. KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, considering the difficulties felt by the people of the place and surrounding villages in the matter of getting medical facilities, will the Government consider sympathetically to open a dispensary in the near future at that place? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The opening of rural dispensaries is the responsibility of the Local Body concerned, Sir."

Contraband fishing in Ponnani

* 1150 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Fisheries received from the Stakenet Fishermen Co-operative Society, F. 1289, Engandiyoor, Ponnani, South Malabar, any communications, dated 5th and 29th November 1954, alleging contraband fishing in that area; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The matter was enquired into. But no action could be taken in the absence of evidence. However arrangements have been made for vigilant watch over the river. Further steps are being taken to survey and demarcate the whole site, excluding private site."